

Delta Plan Development

Summary: Review and discuss the Second Staff Draft Delta Plan, receive a presentation on a recommended adaptive management approach for the Delta Plan, and a summary of comments received in the past month are in the Comment Matrix.

Background

The first staff draft Delta Plan focused on narrative background of our duties and the current situation regarding water resources in California and the conditions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It included findings which have been referred to the Independent Science Board for review before a revision comes out. The first draft did not include discussion of adaptive management, water quality, governance or financing.

This second staff draft includes discussion of adaptive management, governance and finance, plus a range of proposed regulations and recommendations on all the important issue areas, including water quality.

The third staff draft (coming in April) will merge the narrative with the suggested regulations and recommendations, plus adding back in 'findings' both scientific and policy. Expect substantial adjustments, modifications and additions to the staff proposed draft. In addition, the third draft will contain an array of charts and graphics for use in the Delta Plan.

The presentations at this Council meeting will begin with the Lead Scientist discussing a recommended approach to adaptive management for the Delta Plan (Attachment 1) for Council consideration and discussion.

The Second Staff Draft Delta Plan will be presented (Attachment 2). It has changed significantly from the first draft. We will take several hours and walk through the draft plan.

The first staff draft focused on the current situation regarding water resources in California and the conditions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These findings are currently under review by the Independent Science Board and will be substantially rewritten. The first draft did not include discussion of adaptive management, water quality, governance, financing, or the regulatory policies and recommendations. The second staff draft has changed significantly and now includes:

- Sections on adaptive management, governance and finance.
- Proposed regulations and recommendations on all important issue areas (water resources, ecosystem restoration, water quality, reducing Delta flood risk, and Delta as an evolving place).

- A finance chapter that needs significant further development, which is planned for the third draft.

Things missing from this draft which will be included in the next draft:

- Targets and performance measures are not yet included for the proposed policies.
- Findings are not included in the second draft as they are being revised based on input received on the first draft and ISB comments.

The third staff draft (April) will:

- Incorporate an edited version of the narrative found in the first staff draft.
- Merge the findings with the regulatory policies and recommendations.
- Include a more fully developed finance plan with estimated funding needs and proposed finance mechanisms.
- Include targets and performance measures.
- Include maps, charts and graphics to more clearly explain the findings and regulatory policies.

Comments received by the Council in the last month are summarized in the Comment Matrix (Attachment 3). Most of the comments were related to review of the First Staff Draft Delta Plan.

Comments at the March Council meeting, the April workshop and those received by April 15, 2011, will be considered in development of the third draft.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Adaptive Management Approach

Attachment 2: Second Staff Draft Delta Plan

Attachment 3: Comment Matrix for Comments Received from Feb. 7- March 11, 2011

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